

The News Record

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THURSDAY, Editorial Page, DECEMBER 19

Railroad Situation.

"Work will doubtless go ahead on this project (Wallowa O. R. & N. extension) as soon as spring opens," says an Oregonian interview with General Manager O'Brien on his return to Portland from his inspection trip over the road in eastern Oregon. That's good news as far as it goes. No doubt the road would be completed clear to Joseph next summer if O'Brien had his way. His heart is in the right place. Unfortunately, however, O'Brien is only working for Harriman, and Harriman has neither a heart nor a place to put it.

Mr O'Brien found the Riparian-Lewiston track completed but the road will not be operated until a bridge is constructed over the Clearwater next summer. The paragraph in the interview regarding the Elgin-Joseph extension is as follows:

"The Wallowa line, it was found, cannot be pushed during the winter months because the ground is too soft for successful construction. The branch is in operation 12 miles beyond Elgin and the grade completed for some distance further. However, this grade is too soft to lay track and the earth constantly slides down from the hills along the sides of the grade to such an extent that workmen are employed to keep this dirt shoveled off. Work will doubtless go ahead on this project as soon as Spring opens.

"And there you are, as the Irishman said," O'Brien gives out the impression work will be resumed in the spring. The history of Harriman branch line construction in Oregon for 10 years convinces all but the credulous that not a tap will be struck until the territory is threatened by a rival line.

The fault of whatever panic there was in Oregon was due to a few Portland bankers, and particularly one head of a leading bank who was the first to become scared and he grew so frightened that he lost his wits entirely. He was the first to run to Governor Chamberlain and go on his knees imploring state aid. The result was bad for the state, for the state's reputation, but worst of all for Portland, which is the hardest hit of any northwest city. Compare how Seattle weathered the storm in splendid head-up fashion, to the weatherbeaten craft on the Willamette that a few months ago proudly claimed to be the financial mistress of the northwest.

"Not before spring," said General Manager O'Brien, speaking of resumption of work on the Elgin-Joseph extension. He didn't specify what spring. Harriman will do that with chances favoring the spring of 1910 or later.

The holidays were a huge mistake and Governor Chamberlain probably realized it the first week. That was early shown by his hollering for somebody to help him let go, but nobody could or would help.

At least 500 and probably more settlers have been lost by Wallowa county by the failure of the O. R. & N. to complete its line to this valley before the colonists rates go into effect next spring.

The tightness of money caused by the panic would have been borne with comparative cheerfulness in this valley if construction of the O. R. & N. branch had continued.

Waiting on Harriman in Oregon is a long job. Lots of people have grown gray-headed waiting for the S. P. or O. R. & N. to build a railway in their section of Oregon.

"All things come to him who waits," except a Harriman railroad. You have to add hustle to the wait before you get that pearl of great price.

Don't forget. Whether it costs 5 cents or \$5 if Santa Claus brings it the children are happy. Give every child something.

Wallowa county will get a railroad when the people turn to and build one themselves. Then they will get two.

Money isn't everything but the lack of it makes everything else hard to get.

A splendid Christmas trade so far has been enjoyed by Enterprise merchants.

DEATH RECORD.

Andrew Combes an Oregon pioneer and brother of S. E. Combes of Enterprise, died at Blackfoot, Idaho, November 7. He had been a resident of Union county since 1885 until a short time before his death when he went to Idaho.

Guess the number of seeds in the pumpkin at Ashby's and secure one of these beautiful clocks which are now on display in his window. Each dollar purchase entitles you to a guess. Contest closes New Years Eve.

ENTERPRISE OPERA HOUSE



Watch for Next Announcement

WEEKLY COUPON
DECEMBER 19, 1907.
In the
**NEWS RECORD'S
GREAT
\$405
PRIZE CONTEST**
FIVE (5) VOTES FOR

This coupon must be voted on or before December 27, 1907



SELECT YOUR XMAS GIFTS NOW WHILE OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE

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Diamond rings Stone set rings
Oval band rings Engraved band rings
Solid gold watch Chatelaine watch
Safety fobs Cut glass atomizers
Gold and plated lockets
Bracelets Necklaces Rich cut glass
gold lace pins gold beauty pins

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gold and gold filled watches
locket charms Tobacco jar cigar jar
gold cuff links Emblem cuff links

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Buy a Phonograph

And all can enjoy it. I have all the best makes--Victors, Edisons and Columbias
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Something that will please Father and Mother, or Grandpa and Grandma.

A FINE PAIR OF SPECTACLES OR EYE-GLASSES--SOLID GOLD OR GOLD FILLED
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SOMETHING FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE AND THE HOME

Silver Plated Tea Set, Silvet Plated Coffee Set, Set of Forks, Set of Tea Spoons, Set of Table Spoons, And Fine Mantel Clock, Fine Kitchen Clock

Fancy pieces of silver and cut glass. All Kinds of fancy pieces for the table and dresser.

And for the Absent Friend Send him or her one of those fine Sterling Souvenir spoons of Wallowa lake.

I have the Goods. Call and inspect them and you will always receive a cordial welcome.

E. B. WHEAT

The Enterprise Jeweler.
REMOVED TO NEW FRATERNAL BLDG. NEXT TO R. S. & Z.